

Def. Doc. #2112

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

BA-76

Excerpt from the file of letters received (from Thailand)
from January, 1942 to December, 1943

Subject: Shooting to Death of a Cholera Patient at a POW Camp
in Thailand

This is to certify that the document hereto attached is an exact
excerpt from the document in the custody of our bureau.

On this 26th day of May, 1947

/s/ NAKANISHI, Sadayoshi (seal)
Acting Director-General of the
Prisoners of War Information
Bureau

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Telegram 3 September, 1943

Despatched at 14:45)

Arrived at 16:50)

Received at 18:40) 2 Sep.

Censored at 04:00)

To: Vice-minister of War

From: Chief of the Staff of the "GI" Group

(Telegram No. 292, Staff of the "GI" Group)

(Re: Telegram No. 1,525, military confidential, Asia)

As regards the case of shooting and killing of Ere Bage, a British prisoner suffering from cholera, no report was made by the unit concerned at the time of its occurrence. Towards the middle of July, however, we received for the first time a secret report on the case, and demanded the commander of the unit concerned that an immediate investigation be made and a report on the result thereof be submitted. On 10 August, I received oral reports from the acting director of the prisoners' camp in Thailand and also from the acting commander of the Southern Railway. Nevertheless our Army immediately ordered a strict investigation of the case, which we considered was really regrettable from the point of view of humanity and international faith. The truth of the affair is still under investigation.

. Addressed to OKL (for Vice-minister's reference)

(end)

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Telegram 6 September, 1943

Despatched at 16:40)

Arrived at 18:10)

Received at 19:20) 5 Sep.

Censored at 21:05)

To : Vice-Minister of War
Chief of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau

From: Chief of the General Staff of the Southern Army

(Telegram No. 1,275, Southern Army staff-II)

(Reply to Telegram No. 1,525 Military confidential, Asia)

As the case of shooting to death of a British prisoner is still under investigation by the Railway Guards and the Gendarmerie of the Southern Army, report shall be made as soon as the disposal of the affair be decided upon.

Addressed to Vice-minister of War and Chief of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau

(end)

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Telegram 16 October, 1943

Despatched at 18:00)

Arrived : at 18:20)

Received at 19:40) 15 Oct.

Censored at 21:00)

To : Vice-Minister of War

From: Chief of the General Staff of the Southern Army

(Telegram No. 1,770, Southern Army staff-II)

I beg to inform you that concerning the case which was stated in the Telegram No. 1525, military confidential, Asia, and which have been undertaken before the extraordinary court-martial of the "GI" Group, a decision has been reached, as set forth in the telegram No. 48, Court Martial "GI".

In this connection, I beg to add that, on 7 October, I summoned all the chiefs of prisoners camps and the head officers of armies and commanding units under my control, and in the presence of a secretary of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, gave thorough instructions on the treatment of POWs.

(end)

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Telegram 14 October, 1943

Despatched at 23:50 on 13 Oct.

Arrived at 05:35)

Received at 08:10) on 14 Oct.

Censored at 11:25)

To : Vice-minister of War

From: Chief of the Judicial Affairs Bureau of the "G1" Group

(Telegram No. 48. Judicial, "G1")

The extraordinary court-martial of our Army sat two days beginning October 12 and tried the case of shooting and killing a prisoner suffering from cholera along the Thailand-Burma Railway on June 24. After careful trial it was revealed that, judging from the statements not only by the accused, Lieutenant j.g. (POW) of the Navy, who had shot the patient, but also by the accused FUJII, Kiyoshi, a company commander of the 9th Railway Regiment and a major (POW), as well as by three civilian employees, there was no evidence sufficient to decide whether or not the patient was alive at the time of the shooting. We requested, therefore, the expert opinion of three medical officers concerning the cause of his death. On further detailed examination of the patient's conditions before shooting, two of the medical officers affirmed, and one presumed that the patient had already died of cholera before he was shot. The court, therefore, gave the verdict of not guilty today (October 13), in accordance with Article 403 of the Court-martial Law, because there was no evidence sufficient to show that the patient was killed by the shooting of the POW lieutenant j.g.

But, Lieutenant FUJII had disagreed with the barrack authorities on the selection and employment of POWs, and taken no correct ideas concerning their status and treatment. Consequently, he committed the blunder of carelessly issuing the order to shoot the patient without ascertaining whether he was alive or not. This behavior of his is really impermissible from the view-point of international faith and humanity, and also is contrary to his duty as an officer of the Imperial Navy. It is recommended, accordingly, that he be punished most severely.

Addressed to Vice-minister OK.

not used

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來翰綴（泰）

至昭和十七年一月
至昭和十八年十二月
ヨリ拔萃

泰俘虜收容所ニ於ケル「コレラ」患者射殺ノ件

本書は當局保管書類の正確なる拔萃である事を證明する

昭和二十二年五月二十六日

昭陽俘虜情報局長官事務取扱 中西貞喜

Not used

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Exh, NO

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來 翰 綴 (泰)

昭 和 十 七 年 一 月
至 昭 和 十 八 年 十 二 月
ヨリ 拔 萃

泰 俘 虜 收 容 所 ニ 於 ケ ル 「 コ レ ラ 」 患 者 射 殺 ノ 件

本 書 は 當 局 保 管 書 類 の 正 確 な る 抜 萃 で あ る 事 を 證 明 す る

昭 和 二 十 二 年 五 月 二 十 六 日

昭 和 俘 虜 情 報 局 長 官 事 務 取 扱 中 西 貞 喜

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電 報

昭和十八年九月二日

一四四三
一六五五
一八四〇
〇四〇〇
點受著發

次官宛 義集四參謀長

義參電第二九二號

陸亞密電第一五二五號ノ件

英人俘虜兵「コレラ」患者「エレ、ページ」銃殺事件ニ就テハ當時關係

部隊ヨリ何等ノ報告ナカリシガ七月中旬頃當部初テ本事件ノ密報ニ接シ

直チニ關係部隊長ニ事件調査報告ヲ要求シタル所八月十日泰國俘虜收容

所長南鐵司令官ノ各代理ヨリ小官ニ口答報告アリタルモ當軍ニ於テハ人

道上國際信義上誠ニ遺憾ナル事件ナリトシ直チニ嚴重ナル事件ノ搜查ヲ

命シ目下其ノ真相調査中

通電先岡（次官參考）

（終）

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電 報

九五昭和一八九六

一六四〇發
一八二〇着
一九二〇受
二一五點

次 官
俘虜情報局長 宛

南方軍總參謀長

南參二電第一二七五號

陸亞密第一五二五號返

英人俘虜銃殺事件ハ現在南方軍鐵道隊及憲兵隊ニ於テ審理取調中ニシテ

處置決定次第報告ス
通電先 次官、俘虜情報局長

電 報

昭和一八一〇一六

一八〇〇發
一八二〇着
一九四〇受
二一〇〇點

次官宛

南方軍總參謀長

(終)

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南參二電第一七七〇號
陸亞密電第一五二五號ニ依ル首題ノ件ハ義軍臨時軍法會議ニ於テ審理中ノ
所義法電第四八號ノ通り判決ヲ見タルニ付キ報告ス
追ッテ去ル十月七日管下各俘虜收容所長各軍及指揮關係部隊主任將校ヲ
會同シ俘虜情報局事務官ノ臨席ヲ求メ俘虜ノ取扱ニ關シ徹底ヲ圖リシニ
付申添フ

(終)

電 報

昭和一八、一〇、一四
一〇、一三、二五、〇發
一四、〇五、三三、五著
一〇、一八、一〇、〇受
一、一、二五、點

次 官 宛

義集國法務部長

義法電第四八號

六月二十四日ノ泰緬鐵道ニ於ケル俘虜「コレラ」患者射殺事件ニ關シ當
軍、臨時軍法會議ハ昨十二日ヨリ二日間ニ互リ公判ヲ開廷シ慎重審理シ
タル處患者ヲ射殺シタル被告人、俘虜海軍中尉ノ供述ハ勿論被告人鐵道
第九聯隊中隊長藤井潔同俘虜陸軍少佐及證人タル軍屬三名ノ陳述ヲ綜合

スルニ射撃當時果シテ生命アリヤ否ヤヲ断定スル資料乏シカリシヲ以テ
 更ニ軍醫將校三名ヲ鑑定人トナシ死因ニ付詳細ナル鑑定ヲ求メタル所射
 撃前分ノ諸状態ヲ仔細ニ検討シタル結果右患者ハ射撃前既ニ「コレラ」
 病ニ因リ死亡シアリタルモノナルコトヲ二名ハ認定シ一名ハ推定セリ即
 チ該患者ガ俘虜中尉ノ射撃ニ因リ死亡シタルモノナルコト證據極メテ薄
 弱ナルヲ以テ本十三日午後軍法會議第四〇三條ニ依リ無罪ノ判決ヲナス
 但シ藤井中尉ハ豫テヨリ俘虜ノ差出及就役等ニ關シ收容所ト意見ヲ異ニ
 シ、爲ニ俘虜ノ身分及待遇等ニ關スル正鵠ナル觀念ヲ缺如シアリタル結
 果何等患者ノ生死ヲ確カムル手段ヲ講ズルコトナク輕舉ニ射撃ヲ命ズル
 等帝國將校トシテ國際信義及人道上許スベカラザル行爲ニ出デ軍人ノ本
 分ニ背キタルモノナルヲ以テ嚴重懲罰ノ要アルモノト認ム

通電先 岡 次官、南 鐵